CHURCH OF PRESENTATION YOUTH MINISTRY - 2026 SUMMER MISSION TRIP

ROYERSFORD, PA: SUNDAY, JUNE 27 – FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2027

Royersford, Pennsylvania: **[serving with Catholic Heart Workcamp]**

Specific worksite details are [TBD]. Each day will consist of basic construction, painting, maintenance, cleaning, or outreach projects that will help restore or repairing homes or community outreach centers for low-income families or non-profit outreach program facilities. Other work project(s) may include helping at daycare centers for low-income families and/or helping at Social Service Centers such as food pantries, homeless shelters, etc.). Participants may or may not be at the same location for the whole week; it depends on the project, weather conditions and duration of work. More information can be found at: https://heartworkcamp.com/chwc-at-a-glance/

The cost of this mission trip is anticipated to be **$800.00 per participant**, this includes costs of the workcamp, transportation, room and board (meals and other expenses). The expenses of the mission trip will be subsidized by mandatory team fundraising efforts.

Who can apply?

Any teenager enrolled in high school (as of September 2026) may apply to participate in our summer Mission Trip experience. Any teenager meeting the above criteria must provide the following (more details are provided in this application):

- Completed 2-page application form (pages 5 & 6 of this packet).
- A typed letter of intent, 500–700 words in length.
- For applicants who have not served on a mission trip with us before, ONLY: we require (1) letter of recommendation from an outside source (explanation below).
- A *recent* photo of yourself (please staple this to the packet)
- Mission Trip Application Fee $250 – This is a check made out to Church of the Presentation with CHWC Mission Deposit written on the memo line. *In the occurrence that we have more applicants than room on this mission trip, the application fee will be returned to the applicant. For applicants who are accepted, this will be counted as a non-refundable deposit towards the mission trip expense.*
- **COMPLETE PACKET** (all of the above) **DUE: Sunday, December 13th, 2026 to the Youth Ministry Office or Craig's Mailbox in the Main Office**
- Applicants may be required to have an interview with members of the adult team prior being accepted to be a part of the mission trip.
- ***Rising College Freshmen are encouraged to also consider applying for the Young Adult Mission Trips to Taizé (France): 5/22-5/29 &/or Mustard Seed Communities (Jamaica): July 3-10, 2027.***

Letter of Intent: This helps us understand why you want to go on a mission trip and what you hope to get out of this experience. Please be detailed and specific in this letter.

Letter of Recommendation: (for first time applicants ONLY): The letter of recommendation cannot be from anyone related to you, nor can it be written by one of Church of the Presentation's staff members or Youth Ministry volunteers. Some suggestions for people to write this letter include coaches, teachers or club leaders. This letter provides us with an understanding of who you are from another person's perspective and voices why you would make a good candidate for a mission trip with our group. The letter should offer special insights into your personality and personal commitments from a perspective that the application review committee would not otherwise have the chance to observe.

Extra-Curricular Commitments and Youth Ministry Involvement: These sections give us a sense of who you are and how you spend your time as well as your passions, interests, and any outside commitments you may have. This information will assist us in identifying other strengths that you may bring to the group and will highlight how you have already chosen to be involved in our parish community. While teens from other parishes are not excluded from the process, we do give special attention to teenagers who are registered parishioners and those who are involved in Youth Ministry at Church of the Presentation.

How are candidates selected for a mission trip?

Our youth ministry team puts together a committee comprised of experienced adult volunteers to review applications and help select participants for our summer youth mission trips. When reviewing the applications, a particular focus is placed on having a mix of teenagers with a variety of life experiences, whom we believe will be able to meet the expectations of the team during preparation process and while on the mission trip – these individuals must be able to work well with others as unified members of the mission team. We are looking for candidates who will add to the group dynamic and the overall experience in positive ways. Therefore, in some instances, even a candidate who provides a great letter of intent or recommendation, or who has been heavily involved in the Youth Ministry may not always be selected for a trip.

We take the application process very seriously. Many of the years when we were able to offer youth mission trips there have been more qualified teens who apply than a given trip will allow for. While we would never wish to be unable to accept a qualified applicant, we strongly believe that the quality of a mission trip is due to the overall size of our group at each mission location and the delicate mix of many variables including details mentioned above. Mission location placement decisions are based on factors affecting each year's pool of applicants and the ability of the applicants to fulfill the required commitments. Preference for the mission trip will be granted to rising Seniors, rising Juniors, and rising Sophomores (in that order).

Why not accept everyone?

While we would love to offer these experiences to everyone, several factors limit the overall number of Missionaries on each trip. First, we are limited by the amount of people it takes to work on certain projects at given mission locations, the number of people that can fit safely into our transportation vehicles, the capacity of the sleeping facilities, the cost incurred with each service trip, and our ability to provide enough adult chaperones for our groups.

Second, we feel that larger numbers of missionaries may compromise the communal experience as well as the quality of work experiences that we are able to engage in. This concern has been affirmed by some of the staffs of the sponsoring organizations we have served with in the past, and the feedback provided by past adult chaperone teams who have participated in our youth mission trips over the years. We are very proud of the history we have of offering quality service work which in the past have included the regions of Niagara City (NY), Wilmington (DE), Newton, Kearny & Newark (NJ), Washinton (D.C.), New Orleans and various international locations including: Jamaica, Nicaragua, Mexico and in the Dominican Republic. We look forward to continuing this tradition on our mission trips next year!

Finally, it is important to note that *this mission trip IS NOT A VACATION*. The mission work entails early wake-up times, long days and physical labor as well as potentially emotional work with community residents who may suffer from degrees of poverty or physical ailments. We will be engaging in a spiritual activities including daily mass, hearing witness talks and presentations, sharing in group discussions as well as participating Eucharistic Adoration and the sacrament of Reconciliation. We recognize that not all teens may be mature enough to handle these experiences and some teens may benefit more from a mission trip later in their high school years. ***We request that parents and teens discuss their teen's readiness before applying for one of our summer youth mission trips.*** On the rare occasion that we receive an application from someone who we feel is not prepared for a mission trip, we may ask them to reapply the following year.

What commitments are required for this trip?

There are **several required elements** of these mission trips. The formation and community building meetings are **critical** to the group's formation and success for the mission week and are **essential** for the group to develop a trust level and good working relationship prior to the trip. These events also help us assess each teen's ability to handle the physical stresses of the mission work and emotional challenges of living and working in a potentially uncomfortable environment. Through the course of our formation meetings, the mission team will work together on team building activities, fundraising events, and prepare for the mission work that lies ahead. Participants will engage in cultural sensitivity training, explore Catholic social teachings with consideration for the societal challenges in the communities with which we engage, and learn to develop trust and respect through a variety of team building exercises. Teenagers must be sure that they can make ALL the commitments and be present for the **entire** mission week, before applying for the mission trip. If a teenager cannot make all the team formation events, we may ask another individual who is willing to make these commitments and provide a positive and supportive presence for the rest of the mission team.

When will I find out the Committee's decision on my application

All completed applications will be considered for the summer 2027 summer youth mission trip and applicants will be contacted to meet with members of our adult team. If selected, the ***$250 application fee will be applied towards the mission trip as a (nonrefundable) deposit*** will be required from each participant. Should we receive more applicants than we are able to bring on our mission trip, up to two applicants may be selected as alternates (if other missionaries must withdraw from the mission trip).

What are the next steps to take if I am accepted for this year's trip?

FUNDRAISING EVENTS: As a group, we will participate in several **GROUP FUNDRAISING PROJECTS.** In order to raise money for these trips **(see dates below)**. We will fundraise between December '26 - June '27. Our first fundraiser will be the Poinsettia Plant Sale. In addition, once selected, missionaries will be expected to assist with all of the fundraising efforts and other initiatives detailed in this application. AND other initiatives. We will provide detailed guidance and support on these requirements at our meeting for selected participants in December. Proceeds from our mission fundraisers will be used to offset the balance of any remaining trip costs. If the allocated portion of the group raised funds, including the non-refundable deposits, is insufficient to meet the full cost of the trip, each individual missionary will be responsible for raising the additional funds needed to meet the full cost of the trip which will be due by JUNE 15, 2027.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION: A significant component of each Mission trip is spiritual preparation. To help the mission teams' focus on the essential mission of each trip, we will hold spiritual formation sessions for the participants. Part of our spiritual formation includes participation in the Antioch Retreat Weekend (March 6-8, 2026).

2027 SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP: CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

***** KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS *****

Sat./Sun., December 5 & 6, 2026: Poinsettia Flower Sale

- Each applicant MUST help after *at least one* Mass this weekend.

Tues. January 12, 2027 Information Meeting [6:00pm- 6:45pm]

- This meeting is designed to inform all participants and parents/guardians about the details of our mission trips and to discuss fundraising efforts, letter writing, and to provide a time for Q&A, etc. (at least one parent/guardian must attend this meeting).
- Sign-up for our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.

Sat./Sun. January 30/31, 2027: Selling Tickets for Pancake Breakfast (after Masses)

- Each team member MUST help after *at least one* Mass this weekend.

Sun., February 14, 2027: Super Bowl Sunday: Pancake Breakfast

- Together with The Knights of Columbus we will help plan and serve breakfast after all morning Masses.

Fri. - Sun., February 26-28, 2027: Antioch Retreat Weekend

Sun. March 7, 2027: Antioch Retreat Reunion

Sat./Sun., March 20 & 21, 2027: Spring Flower Sale

- Each team member MUST help after *at least one* Mass this weekend.

Tues. April 13, 2027: Spiritual Formation (teens only) [6:00pm- 6:45pm]

Sun. June 13, 2027: Pray-n-Wash Fundraiser [7:30am-1:30pm] – (weather permitting)

Sat. June 26: Catholic Heart Mission Trip: "Pack & Pray" [3:30pm – 7:30pm]

Sun. June 27 – July 2, 2027: C.H.W.C. MISSION TRIP WITH – Wilkes Barre, PA

Tues. July 27, 2027 [Tent.] Mission Trip Reunion [T.B.D.]

***Note: Not mandatory, but highly encouraged: Participants should engage in the faith enrichment and growth in community through the IGNITE Youth Ministry Program which meets weekly on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30pm!**

TEEN APPLICATION FORM: DUE DECEMBER 13TH, 2026

ROYERSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA, SUNDAY, JUNE 27 – SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2027

(Please PRINT Clearly)

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Sex _____ Age _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

E-mail _____/_____
(Participant) (Parent/Guardian)

Best phone _____ Teen phone_____

Mother_____ Cell phone_____

Father_____ Cell phone_____

Grade in school: _____ Name of High School_____

Medical History/Restrictions/Medications_____

Parish: _____

Please Initial: *I acknowledge that my completion of this application does not guarantee my place on this mission trip. I am also aware that space is limited, and that preference may be granted to first time participants &/or those eligible to enter the Peer Ministry Program during the 2026-2027 academic year, to rising seniors, juniors, then rising sophomores (in that order).*

Participant: _____ **Parent**: _____

Please attach the following to your application:

You must write and submit a printed Letter of Intent (Please answer the following questions in your letter of intent)

1. Why do you want to participate in this mission experience? What do you hope to get out of this experience?
2. What gifts, talents, motivations, and interests can you offer that would enhance the experience for the group?
3. What experience/expertise can you bring to the group? Why do you wish to do another service trip this year? How do you see yourself growing more deeply this year?

NEW APPLICANTS ONLY: you must provide ONE Letter of Recommendation from an adult unrelated to you, from outside the parish. This letter could be written by a teacher, coach, employer, etc. Please have the writer answer the following questions in their letter:

1. What is their relationship to you?
2. Why would it be good for you to participate in this mission trip?
3. What character attributes has this individual observed in you that would make you a valuable person to have on our service experience? Please illustrate how these attributes have been observed.
4. Overall, why would your letter writer recommend YOU?

TEEN APPLICATION FORM – PAGE 2 of 2

Please list your extra -curricular activities (if necessary, use separate paper):

Activity	Description of Activity & Responsibilities	Positions held/ Awards achieved	Length of Commitment Hours/week; # of years

Please list your involvement in Presentation's Youth Ministry or parish ministries:

Activity	Length of Time Hours/Week; # of Years

STATEMENT of AGREEMENT:

By signing this form, I am agreeing that all of the information I have supplied is accurate and truthful. I am stating that I have read through and understand the entire application process. Additionally, I am stating, that if selected for this mission trip, I am committing to the list of MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS and COMMITMENTS, stating, that if selected, I will be responsible to fundraise the amount of my trip, and that any monies not raised through group fundraising or letter writing will be my responsibility. Should I fail to cover my cost for the mission trip by June 15th, my place may be given to an alternate applicant.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ (date) _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ (date) _____